

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A substrate for an information recording medium, which is formed of a glass containing no Li_2O , having a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 600°C or higher and having an etching rate of 0.1 $\mu\text{m}/\text{minute}$ or less with regard to a hydrosilicofluoric acid aqueous solution that is maintained at a temperature of 45°C and has a hydrosilicofluoric acid concentration of 1.72 % by weight.
2. (original) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , CaO and K_2O as essential components.
3. (currently amended) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 2, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 45 to 70 % of SiO_2 , 1 to 15 % of Al_2O_3 , the total content of SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 being 57 to 85 %, 2 to 25 % of CaO , 0 to 15 % of BaO , 0 to 15 % of MgO , 0 to 15 % of SrO , 0 to 10 % of ZnO , the total content of MgO , CaO , SrO , BaO and ZnO being 2 to 30 %, more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of K_2O , ~~0 to 8 % of Li_2O~~ , 0 to 8 % of Na_2O , the total content of K_2O , ~~Li_2O~~ and Na_2O being 2 to 15 %, 0 to 12 % of ZrO_2 and 0 to 10 % of TiO_2 , the total content of said components being at least 95 %.
4. (original/withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , CaO , Na_2O and K_2O and has a chemically strengthened layer.
5. (original/withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 4, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 47 to 70 % of SiO_2 , 1 to 10

% of Al_2O_3 , the total content of SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 being 57 to 80 %, 2 to 25 % of CaO , 1 to 15 % of BaO , 1 to 10 % of Na_2O , more than 0 % but not more than 15 % of K_2O , 0 to 3 % of Li_2O , the total content of Na_2O , K_2O and Li_2O being 3 to 16 %, 1 to 12 % of ZrO_2 , 0 to 10 % of MgO , 0 to 15 % of SrO , 0 to 10 % of ZnO , the total content of MgO , CaO , SrO , BaO and ZnO being 3 to 30 %, the ratio of the content of CaO to the total content of MgO , CaO , SrO and BaO being at least 0.5, and 0 to 10 % of TiO_2 , the total content of said components being at least 95 %.

6. (original/withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the glass contains SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , CaO , BaO , Na_2O and ZrO_2 as essential components and has a chemically strengthened layer,

7. (original/withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 6, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 47 to 70 % of SiO_2 , 1 to 10 % of Al_2O_3 , the total content of SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 being 57 to 80 %, 2 to 25 % of CaO , 1 to 15 % of BaO , 1 to 10 % of Na_2O , 0 to 15 % of K_2O , 0 to 3 % of Li_2O , the total content of Na_2O , K_2O and Li_2O being 3 to 16 %, 1 to 12 % of ZrO_2 , 0 to 10 % of MgO , 0 to 15 % of SrO , 0 to 10 % of ZnO , the total content of MgO , CaO , SrO , BaO and ZnO being 3 to 30 %, the ratio of the content of CaO to the total content of MgO , CaO , SrO and BaO being at least 0.5, and 0 to 10 % of TiO_2 , the total content of said components being at least 95 %.

8. (previously presented/withdrawn) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 1, which is for use in a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode information recording medium.

9. (previously presented/withdrawn) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 1.

10. (currently amended/withdrawn) The information recording medium as recited in claim 89, which is a perpendicular-magnetic-recording-mode magnetic recording medium.

11. (previously presented/withdrawn) A process for manufacturing an information recording medium, which comprises the step of forming an information recording layer on a substrate for an information recording medium and uses the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 1 as said substrate, said step comprising the procedure of heating said substrate to a temperature of 300 to 600°C.

12. (new) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 2.

13. (new) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 3.

14. (new) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 4.

15. (new) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 5.

16. (new) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 6.

17. (new) An information recording medium having an information recording layer formed on the substrate for an information recording medium recited in claim 7.

18. (new) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, wherein the ratio of the content of CaO to the total content of MgO, CaO, SrO and BaO ($\text{CaO}/(\text{MgO}+\text{CaO}+\text{SrO}+\text{BaO})$) is 0.5 or more.

19. (new) The substrate for an information recording medium as recited in claim 3, wherein the glass has a composition comprising, by mol%, 50 to 67 % of SiO_2 , 2 to 12 % of Al_2O_3 , the total content of SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 being 57 to 79 %, 3 to 20 % of CaO , 0 to 14 % of BaO , 0 to 10 % of MgO , 0 to 10 % of SrO , 0 to 8 % of ZnO , the total content of MgO , CaO , SrO , BaO and ZnO being 3 to 30 %, 0 to 5 % of Na_2O , 0.5 % to 15 % of K_2O , the total content of K_2O and Na_2O being 4 to 12 %, 0 to 10 % of ZrO_2 and 0 to 8 % of TiO_2 .